

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

UNCLAS DUBLIN 2040

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PINS, EI, NL

SUBJ: KIDNAPPED DUTCH BUSINESSMAN FREED

1. IRELAND'S LONGEST AND MOST SENSATIONAL POLITICAL KIDNAPPING HAS ENDED HAPPILY. AFTER AN EIGHTEEN DAY SIEGE, AND 36 DAYS AFTER HE WAS KIDNAPPED, DR. TIEDE HERREMA, MANAGER OF A LARGE DUTCH-OWNED PLANT NEAR LIMERICK, WALKED TO FREEDOM LAST NIGHT AND HIS KIDNAPPERS GAVE UP. DESPITE LITTLE FOOD AND MUCH HARRASSMENT, THE 54-YEAR-OLD HERREMA WAS IN SUCH GOOD CONDITION THAT HE REFUSED TO GO TO A HOSPITAL FOR A CHECKUP. THE KIDNAPPERS ARE REPORTEDLY NOT IN SUCH GOOD CONDITION.

2. COMMENT: WE WILL NOT GO INTO THE DETAILS OF THIS EVENT AS IT HAS RECEIVED WIDE MEDIA COVERAGE THROUGHOUT EUROPE, BUT IT IS EVIDENT THE IRISH HAVE GIVEN SOME LESSONS IN HOW TO HANDLE A POLITICAL KIDNAPPING. THE MAIN LESSON: NO COMPROMISE, APPARENTLY NO DEALS OF ANY KIND, AND PATIENCE. THERE ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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OTHER FACTORS WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL BE TAKEN AS LESSONS ON

THIS VIOLENCE-TORN ISLAND: THE IRISH WERE WILLING TO INVEST THE RESOURCES OF OVER HALF THEIR NATIONAL POLICE AND ARMY TO FIND THE KIDNAPPERS, AND EVENTUALLY THEY SUCCEEDED. THE IRISH GOVERNMENT REALIZED IMMEDIATELY THE DEADLY SERIOUSNESS OF THIS CHALLENGE TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE, AND THEY PUT EVERYTHING INTO A MAMMOTH EFFORT. ANOTHER LESSON WAS THE TREATMENT OF THE PRESS, WHICH POURED IN FROM BRITAIN AND THE CONTINENT. THE GOI REFUSED TO BE IMPRESSED WITH THE CLAMORS FROM THE MEDIA AND GAVE OUT VERY LITTLE INFORMATION, IN THE BEGINNING BECAUSE IT WAS FEARED THE KIDNAPPERS MIGHT HAVE A TRANSISTOR RADIO, BUT LATER BECAUSE APPARENTLY THE JUSTICE MINISTER HAD TAKEN A CONSCIOUS DECISION NOT TO GRANDSTAND THE AFFAIR FOR POLITICAL ADVANTAGE. ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT NOW STANDS TO GAIN LARGE POLITICAL DIVIDENDS FROM THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME, WE HAVE DETECTED A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO PLAY THIS DOWN. IN RETURN, OPPOSITION LEADER LYNCH HAS GIVEN FIRM SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE AFFAIR.

CURLEY

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